



Photo by Todd Berenger

Tech. Sgt. Craig Dickensheets, 377th Air Base Wing Ground Safety, checks for seatbelt wear during a recent stop. Seatbelt checks will be conducted daily throughout the base until the end of May

Deaths prompt daily seatbelt checks

Two Air Force Materiel Command people not wearing seat belts and dying in separate vehicle accidents prompted AFMC officials to start a command-wide seatbelt awareness program.

AFMC safety and security forces experts teamed to develop the program that started May 1.

For 30 days, 377th Security Forces Squadron, 377th Air Base Wing Safety Office members and commanders, first sergeants and supervisors from throughout the base will check for seatbelt wear on Kirtland AFB every day.

After the initial 30-day period, officials will conduct weekly seatbelt checks and forward those results to the AFMC safety office monthly. Seatbelt statistics will be briefed to Gen. Gregory S. Martin, AFMC commander, quarterly.

"This initiative is to encourage all AFMC people to use seatbelts and save the lives of our most valuable resource—our people," General Martin said.

Wayne Ragan, 377th Air Base Wing

chief of safety, said, "As of May 5, we have held three seatbelt checks of over 1,700 vehicles with 51 violations. This is unacceptable and could be a senseless waste of life.

"This means that four people out of every 100 could be injured or killed when they are involved in a vehicle accident," he continued.

"One fatality is too many and our hearts go out to the families who lost loved ones," John Sheehan, AFMC chief of ground safety said. But the reality is, "The Air Force requires people to wear seatbelts and shoulder harnesses while driving or riding in a car and despite the safety education, some continue to ignore that."

And ignoring the common sense, and more importantly the mandatory requirement is "unacceptable," said General Martin.

"...Using seat belts is required for all personnel—military, civilian or DOD contractor—driving on any Air Force installation," General Martin said. "These requirements extend to military personnel

operating vehicles off-base, including off-duty time. They have been written in blood over the years and we have a wealth of knowledge that they save lives."

"Also, if you are driving," Mr. Ragan said, "and someone in your vehicle is not wearing a seatbelt, guess who gets the \$69 citation? The driver, that's who.

"We are also taking this opportunity," he continued, "to check motorcycle and bicycle riders for proper protective gear."

Additionally, security forces members will make sure signs are posted at each installation entry control point stating seatbelts are mandatory for all vehicle occupants.

"Wearing a seat belt is the law on military installations, and because it's the law, we're going to enforce it," said Col. Cheryl Dozier, AFMC security forces chief. "We can't afford to lose people to something so preventable. We can't control several other factors when we're on the road, but deciding to wear a seat belt is something we can control."

Kirtland AFB picked for Web-based mentoring program test

One of the seven affirmative employment initiatives of Col. Hank Andrews Jr., 377th Air Base Wing commander, is to develop a Mentoring and Development Program for Kirtland AFB.

Col. William J. Cleckner, 377th Air Base Wing inspector general, is the task force lead for this initiative.

The Mentoring and Development task force consists of 17 civilian and military members from throughout Kirtland AFB.

The committee has been working the issue and developing the framework of the program for a couple of months and are working towards their vision to:

"Establish a mentoring program at Kirtland AFB to help the workforce develop a better understanding of the skills

required and opportunities available to reach their career goals."

AFMC recently hosted an Air Force-wide Mentoring Requirements meeting. After reviewing all of the major command's initiatives, AFMCs online program was selected as the test program for development of an Air Force-wide program. The command then selected Kirtland AFB to lead the test to determine its suitability for implementation command wide.

According to Colonel Cleckner, AFMC was very impressed with Kirtland's commitment to developing this program, "that's why we were selected to participate in this mentoring initiative."

The test phase will be from May 10–Aug. 13. It will be conducted in several

phases, the first of which is to enroll individuals interested in becoming mentors. Then follow-on phases will begin to enroll mentees. This test program will be open to all Air Force military and Air Force civilians.

Vita Kelley, co-chairman, said, "We are very excited about this opportunity. We will be sending email letters to all Air Force civilians and military next week to solicit their support in becoming a mentor. If you do not have email or if you have any questions please call me at 846-9561.

"We are also available to speak at commander or director calls or any other group settings," she said. "We expect to

MENTORING

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE

PAGE 2

'Bare bones' exercise;
Honor Guard recruits;
Med Groups' 'night shift'

PAGE 3

Playground remodeled

PAGE 4

Career Focus;
Command Chief's
Choice

PAGE 5

Forum

PAGE 6

Highland update

PAGE 7

Proteus visits; AF
Climate Survey results

PAGE 8

West Nile Virus

PAGE 9

Angel Awards;
Childcare rules;
New housing update

PAGES 10-11

Of note

PAGES 12-13

377th MSS serves
TEAM KIRTLAND

PAGE 14

Installation reception
support

PAGE 15

Elder care; Officer
education; Patriots visit

PAGES 16-17

Services

PAGES 18-19

Sports

PAGE 21

Movies

**63 TEAM
KIRTLAND
members are
delayed in
15
locations**

**Force
Protection
Condition
ALPHA**

**Straight Talk
853-4636**